

Safeguarding the Labour Vote by Safeguarding Women and Girls

A 2024 YouGov poll¹ has shown that scepticism towards transgender rights has increased significantly across all demographics, with a sharp increase in the last two years. This includes amongst women and younger age groups, those who have previously been more sympathetic. A table summarising the results of the survey are shown below. The key findings were that:

- Scepticism towards transgender rights has grown across the board since 2022
- Scepticism on transgender rights has increased across the board in the last two years, including among those groups typically more sympathetic to trans people
- Although a majority of Britons still think you should be able to change your gender, the number thinking this has fallen by 6%
- While Britons tend to think people should be able to identify as a different gender socially, they also tend to think they should not be able to do so legally
- Since 2022, there has been a ten point increase in the number of Britons who say you should be able to change neither your social nor legal gender
- Since 2022, there has been a significant increase across all social groups in the number saying that people should be able to change neither their social nor legal gender
- Few Britons support the idea that the process of legally changing gender should be made easier: only 19% think it should be made easier, compared to 63% who say it should not.
- The public are also generally opposed to gender transition treatments being available through the NHS. Most (57%) say gender reassignment surgery should not be provided through the NHS, with 51% saying the same of hormone treatments, down 18 points.
- The large majority of Britons are opposed to allowing children under the age of 16 to receive transgender treatments: 87% disagree surgery should be available; 78% disagree hormone treatment should be available; 75% disagree puberty blockers should be.
- 55% of Britons believe that allowing transgender women to use spaces reserved for women such as women's toilets or changing rooms, "presents a genuine risk of harm to women".
- 74% of Britons are opposed to transgender woman athletes taking part in sporting events for their new gender

The most recent YouGov poll, published by the Sunday Times on 18 May², showed that over half of Labour voters supported the judgement and only 28% opposed it. There was a clear divide however along age lines, with only 31% of under 24s agreeing with the judgement compared to 72% of 50-64 year olds. Across all voter groups, 63% supported the court's ruling. Overall, 18% disagreed and 19% "didn't know"

The polling, commissioned by the human rights charity Sex Matters, found that 62% of voters believed sporting bodies should enforce the ruling when it came to inclusion in sport. A majority also thought the new digital ID system should be based on biological sex.

The results of previous surveys show that women have more permissive attitudes on trans rights than men, and that young people also do so compared to their elders. Labour and Lib Dem voters also have notably more pro-transgender views than Conservative and Reform UK voters. However, none of these groups can be described as having consistently pro-transgender views. Across the range of questions, the youngest Britons are generally the ones holding the most permissive views. Even among this group, on only around half of the questions does the number of young people taking a more permissive view outnumber those with less permissive views. All groups - regardless of age, sex or political party - now oppose the extension of transgender

¹ <https://yougov.co.uk/politics/articles/51545-where-does-the-british-public-stand-on-transgender-rights-in-202425>

² Sunday Times 18 May 2025 <https://archive.ph/IYSjs>

rights and oppose the inclusion of trans identifying males ("trans women") in women's sports. The details are summarised in the table below.

Why has public opinion shifted?

Transgender ideology has become much more prevalent in people's lives. Programmes like Stonewall's Diversity Champions have promoted rapid change to extend trans people's rights at the expense of women's rights. Accepting "preferred pronouns" seemed like a common courtesy but changing all language referring to women has produced absurdities such as "pregnant people", "chest feeder" and "cervix haver". Many women find these terms confusing and degrading.

Trans identifying males ("trans women") for the most part do **not** undergo radical surgery or take cross-sex hormones. Yet they have been allowed access to single-sex spaces such as women's changing rooms, refuges, prisons and hospital wards, and toilets, including in schools, where it is of particular importance, and where intact young males are being allowed to change in front of a room full of girls. This is a safeguarding issue and many parents are rightly concerned. Also, schools have been teaching transgender ideology in the classroom as though it was a proven science not a belief, which is causing confusion for youngsters who cannot possibly comprehend the damaging and permanent consequences of the suggestion that people can "change sex".

Only 18-24 year olds in the YouGov survey thought that allowing "trans women" into women's spaces did not present a genuine risk of harm. Clearly life experience matters. Yet the usurping of women's and lesbian rights has become widespread and this has restricted personal freedoms. In particular, women of faith have had to exclude themselves from, for example, swimming pools, as male-bodied people are now allowed access.

LGB people have seen their cultural domain transgressed as they have been forced by either social pressure or organisations to accept trans identifying males (or "transbians") in their dating pool. Despite same-sex attraction being a protected characteristic within the Equality Act 2010, the trans lobby claim that lesbians who refuse to date male-bodied "transwomen" as transphobic.

From our perspective as lesbian, gay and bi-sexual women and men, it is homophobic if members of the opposite sex force themselves on us. Unsurprisingly, there is now a concerted pushback.

While the majority of progressive people rightly agree that 'people should be able to identify as a different gender to the one recorded at birth, the survey showed there was now solid objection across all cohorts to allowing "trans women" (biological men) to take part in women's sports.

The International Olympic Committee has now made it mandatory for female participants to take a cheek swab test, to confirm their sex, before competing. While this is very welcome at elite level, there is as yet no regulation preventing the participation of trans-identifying males in girls' sports at school or at lower levels of competitions. All male-bodied people have a natural physical advantage over females, mainly acquired at puberty with rapid growth of heart, lungs, bones, and muscle mass. It is notable that there are no "trans men" (biological women) in men's sports.

Males typically outperform females by 10% to 30% depending on the type of event. Two biological men identifying as women defeated fourteen women to reach the final of a Women's Pro Series pool even recently. In tennis, a male player seeded over 100 in the ranking could beat the women's champion Sereena Williams. Not only are girls and young women being denied access to higher level sports but in contact sports, the participation of "trans women" poses significant physical risk (examples of injury are too numerous to include here). Every track and field professional women's record can be bettered by boys of school age.

How should Labour politicians approach this issue?

The impact of transgender ideology, of "trans women and girls" (biological males) accessing female-only spaces, is primarily about safeguarding. It should be considered as a matter of fairness, not only in sports but also when protecting the hard-won rights of women. Children should not be taught that everyone is born with an "innate gender" because there is no scientific proof that this is the case: it is pure conjecture, a belief. Children should be taught facts.

The research shows that the position taken by the Labour leadership, particularly Keir Starmer, Wes Streeting and Bridget Philipson, is in step with public opinion on these matters. The Labour Party must heed the public mood or risk losing support.

Labour LGB believes that the Labour Party should state clear policies that:

- protect and safeguard women's spaces
- protect females in sports from unfair competition
- safeguard girls in changing rooms and after-school activities
- safeguard students in schools and colleges from harmful gender ideologies
- protect lesbians and gays from homophobic trans demands

We welcome the recent decision of the footballing body to adopt the Supreme Court ruling and to make sure only biological women can play in women's teams. We call on all sporting bodies to do the same and stop the unfairness that has stolen women's sporting achievements in recent years.

Summary of British attitudes to transgender rights, 2024/25

KEY

Majority agree	✓
Plurality agree	✓
Equal split	—
Plurality disagree	✗
Majority disagree	✗

	18-24yr olds	Lib Dems	Labour	25-49yr olds	Women	ALL BRITONS	Men	50-64 yr olds	65+yr olds	Conservative Reform
Recognition										
People should be able to identify as a different gender to the one recorded at birth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✗	✗
The law should allow people to change legal gender	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Increased trans recognition and rights does not pose any genuine risk to women's rights	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Process										
Should be made easier for transgender people to change legal gender	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Should not have to obtain the approval of one or more doctors to change legal gender	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Should not have to provide evidence lived in new gender for 2+ years before able to change legal gender	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Number of doctors' approval required for getting a GRC should be reduced from two to one	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Process for getting a GRC should not require approval by a legal and medical panel	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Access										
Trans women should be allowed to take part in women's sporting events	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Trans men should be allowed to take part in men's sporting events	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Allowing trans women to use spaces reserved for women does not present a genuine risk of harm	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Trans women should be allowed to use women's changing rooms	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Trans women should be allowed to use women's toilets	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Trans women should be allowed to use women's refuges for victims of rape or assault	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Trans men should be allowed to use men's changing rooms	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Trans men should be allowed to use men's toilets	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
<i>When specified that the transgender person in question had <u>not</u> had gender reassignment surgery</i>										
Trans women should be allowed to use women's changing rooms	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Trans women should be allowed to use women's toilets	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Trans men should be allowed to use men's changing rooms	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Trans men should be allowed to use men's toilets	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Treatments										
Hormone treatment should be available on the NHS	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Gender reassignment surgery should be available on the NHS	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Puberty blockers should be allowed for under-16s	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Hormone treatment should be allowed for under-16s	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Gender reassignment surgery should be allowed for under-16s	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗